

August, 16, 2009

Dear Mr. Marx,

We are asking that the Army Corps of Engineers to reevaluate the permit for BNSF's intermodal facility in Johnson County with a full Environmental Impact Statement (Reference Permit Number 2006-1014). The issues involved in the project are complex enough that we have concerns that the Environmental Assessment previously performed does not adequately address the full impact of this project on the surrounding areas. It is our belief that the Corps' analysis has been too dependent on information provided by consultants working for the benefit of BNSF. We need to have an independent Environmental Impact Statement that more thoroughly examines the issues, and does not simply rely on unverified data from BNSF or its agents.

One benefit of a full Environmental Impact Statement would involve a better understanding of the effects of altering the watershed feeding into Hillsdale Lake. We have concerns about the impact to the quality of the drinking water coming out of Hillsdale Lake, which so many people rely on. An Environmental Impact Statement would also provide better insight in to the impact to aquatic life in the streams of Bull Creek drainage and the impact resulting from the potential loss of wetlands.

Another area of particular concern to us is the increased traffic in the area. We have no reason to believe that the estimates of truck and train traffic relating from this project are accurate in the previous assessment. An interdependent study needs to be conducted, that takes into account noise and light pollution, and potential traffic congestion issues, including the associated idle times of the vehicles involved.

Placing a major rail-yard and truck-yard on the SW corner of the Johnson County and of the Kansas City metro area requires a more careful evaluation of the impact to air quality. Prior to a permit being issued to BNSF, a Health Risk Assessment needs be done to better understand the health risks associated with this project. We are especially concerned about the effects of diesel emissions on individuals who live nearby, particularly those that suffer from respiratory difficulties, as our family does.

With the understating that the impact of this project could extend beyond just SW Johnson County, we ask that the public comment period be extended another 60 - 90 days to allow additional individuals over a wider area to provide comments.

For the benefit of the community, we respectfully ask that the following be provided:

- A full Environmental Impact Statement
- A Health Risk Assessment
- A 60 – 90-day extension of the public comment period.

Sincerely,

Jim and Debbie Andera

506 S. Center St, Gardner, KS 66030